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## COLLECTIONS

Vol. XXII	January, 1929	No. 1
CLAUDE R. BRANCH, <i>President</i>	GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, <i>Treasurer</i>	HOWARD M. CHAPIN, <i>Librarian</i>
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### Rhode Island Signboards

The January and April, 1926, issues of the *Collections* contain an illustrated account of Rhode Island signboards, which the following notes supplement.

Professor William C. Poland reports that the *Sign of the Swan* was a rude painting that hung on South Water Street, Providence, about 1866, with the following lines:

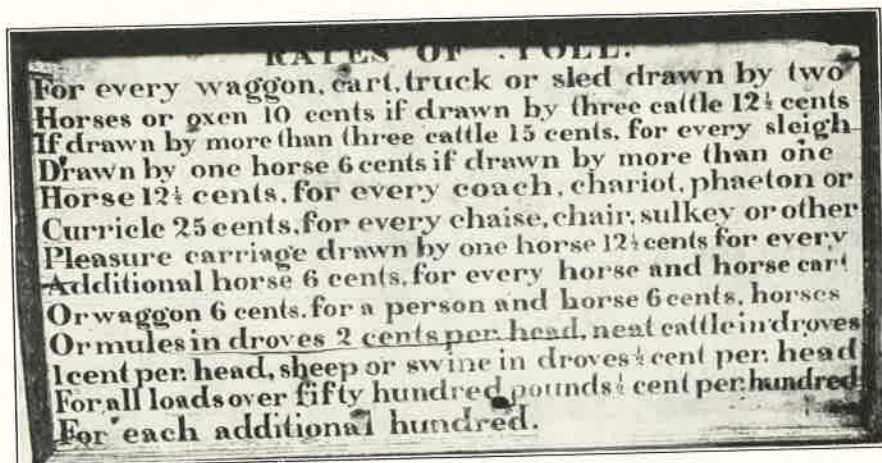
"This is the Swan  
That dips her bill in porter  
And why not we  
As well as she  
To become toppers."

Professor Poland adds that there was a Dew Drop Inn on North Main Street at about this time, but does not recall any illustrated signboard in connection with it. This punning title, with many varied modifications, has become very popular in recent years along state highways.

The late Mr. Charles A. Calder discovered an advertising verse printed in the *Providence Gazette* in 1822 referring to the

*Harvest Home Inn*, later called the *Bull Dog Tavern* in Providence. It reads:

"When from the markets busy hour they turn,  
To seek for rest, nor longer wish to roam,  
His well spread board, and couches soft with down,  
Shall give them pleasure at the Harvest Home."



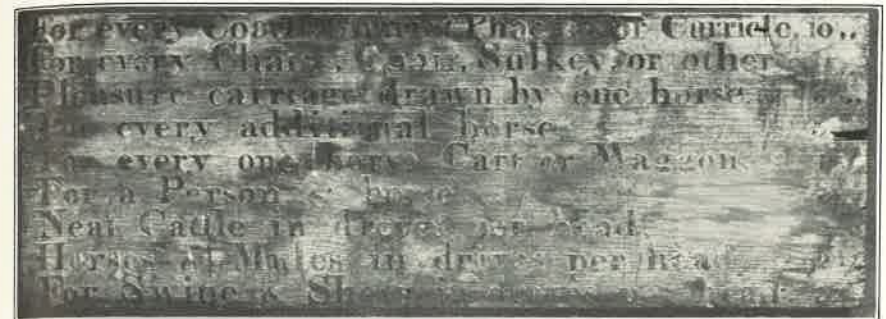
POWDER MILL TURNPIKE TOLL SIGN

*Owned by the late Mr. George C. Dempsey.*

Two toll signs, exhibited in a loan exhibition held by the *Society* in 1922, are reproduced in this issue of the *Collections*. One of these is the toll board, which in 1815 hung on the Powder Mill Turnpike now Smith Street, at the corner near the Fruit Hill Tavern. This sign was later transferred to the corner of Smith Street and Belvedere Boulevard, then to the corner of Smith and Eaton Streets, and finally to Centredale, at the junction of the George Waterman Road and Putnam Avenue. It was loaned by the late Mr. George C. Dempsey.

The other sign was used at a toll gate kept by William Wilder, at the corner of Lindsey Pike and Log Bridge Road, now

Weeden Street and Smithfield Avenue. This gate was surrounded by a dense forest, and some people, who objected to paying toll, went around the gate. Mr. Wilder prevented the



SIGN WHICH FORMERLY HUNG AT THE TOLL GATE AT THE CORNER OF WEEDEN STREET AND SMITHFIELD AVENUE.

*Owned by the Pawtucket Chapter, D. A. R.*

continuance of this travel by having his family dig trenches so that all travelers had to go through the gate and pay toll. This sign was loaned from the Daggett House Museum by the Pawtucket Chapter, D. A. R.

## The Japanese Cartoon

The curious Japanese cartoon, which is reproduced in this issue of the *Collections*, was painted by the Japanese artist Matsumoto Haruki, and represents his impression of Commodore Matthew C. Perry's famous visit to Japan. The cartoon is signed by the artist, and the figures in the cartoon are described by the Japanese inscriptions. The figure at the extreme right represents Commodore Perry, and the one at the extreme left a Chinaman. The other figures represent the types of the American uniforms that particularly interested the oriental artist. The ship in the foreground is Perry's flagship, and its dimensions are given in Japanese units of measure.